

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): Crosslinked (meth)acrylate-based resin particles having an average particle diameter of 1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , comprising a copolymer obtained by copolymerization of monomer components comprising a monomer having a carboxyl group and at least one monomer selected from an acrylic ester and a methacrylic ester, wherein the surface of the resin particles is coated with a surfactant having a sulfonic acid group or a sulfonate group.

Claim 2 (Original): The resin particles according to claim 1, wherein the degree of neutralization of the carboxyl groups in the resin particles is 1 to 30%.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The resin particles according to claim 1 [[or 2]], having a compression strength of 0.7 to 15  $\text{kgf/mm}^2$ .

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The resin particles according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, further coated on the surface with silicone-based polymer compound particles.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A process for producing the crosslinked (meth)acrylate-based resin particles of ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, which comprises copolymerizing monomer components comprising a monomer having a carboxyl group and at least one monomer selected from an acrylic ester and a methacrylic ester, using a surfactant having a sulfonic acid group or a sulfonate group as a dispersant.